

CITY OF



OAK PARK ZOO

(3)

PARKS
AND
RECREATION

March 12, 1957

Major General Victor A. Conrad,
Commanding Officer, Signal Center,
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

Dear General:

Honorable W. A. Gayle, Mayor of the City of Montgomery, has requested that I write you in regard to having one or more of the hero pigeons in Oak Park. We are interested and feel that the public would be interested in seeing these birds. I can assure you they will receive adequate care and attention.

Hoping to have a favorable reply, I am

Sincerely yours,

T. A. Belser

T. A. Belser, Superintendent
Park and Recreation Department

TAB:g

*Caesar
Flipper*

CONVENIENCE COPY—

INFORMATION OFFICE

28 MAR 1957

Mr. T. A. Belser
Superintendent
Park and Recreation Department
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Belser:

I am pleased to advise you that "Caesar" (Male) and "Flipper" (female), hero pigeons of World War II, will be presented to the Oak Park Zoo on inactivation of the pigeon training program by the United States Army.

A Certificate of Presentation has been prepared for each of the pigeons, which includes a brief citation of the pigeon's background and achievement. You will undoubtedly desire to hang these certificates, which have been framed, in the locality where the pigeons will be displayed.

Inclosed is a photograph of each of the hero pigeons which you will receive, as well as a copy of the history of the pigeon as it appears in the certificate.

Arrangements will shortly be made to have the pigeons brought to Montgomery for presentation. You will be advised sufficiently in advance of the expected time of arrival of my representative with the pigeons and the citations, so as to enable you to make any desired preparation for the presentation.

Sincerely yours,

2 Incls

1. Photo, Caesar, w/history
attached
2. Photo, Flipper, w/history
attached

VICTOR A. CONRAD
Major General, USA
Commanding

WVB S3 J2 10

WVIF

MONTGOMERY, ALA

SIGFM/IN 311.9

3 April 1957

SUBJECT: Hero Pigeons

Mr. T. A. Belser, Superintendent
Park and Recreation Department
Oak Park Zoo
Montgomery, Alabama

Amherst 3-1081

Dear Mr. Belser:

As a followup to our commanding general's recent letter notifying you of the hero pigeons you shortly will receive from Fort Monmouth, I am pleased to forward a "publicity packet" as a means of furnishing background material for your institution as well as any contemplated promotion projects in official acceptance ceremonies.

Please be advised that you will be notified in advance of the time of delivery, and all details involved in bringing these World War II hero pigeons to you.

The enclosed publicity material includes an overall news release prepared by this office marked for April 7th release. This story gives a complete breakdown on the dissemination of the 15 pigeon heroes.

Also included in this packet are four photos each of the hero birds you are to receive, plus copies of the citation outlining their heroic feats.

Framed citations, signed by the Fort Monmouth commander, Maj. Gen. Victor A. Conrad, will be turned over to your institution on arrival of the pigeons.

Trusting the enclosed material is satisfactory, and if further data is required, please inform the undersigned immediately.

Sincerely yours,

Incls:
Photos
Citations
News Release

J. P. HOFFMAN
Information Officer

Caesar
&
Flipper

JMD/rgk/d

SIGFM/TN 311.9
Re: Pigeons

25 April 1957

Information Officer
Fort Rucker
Alabama

Dear Sir:

As you probably know, pigeon training activities are being inactivated in the Army and the fifteen World War II hero pigeons here at Fort Monmouth are presently being delivered to public zoos and institutions throughout the country.

I am writing you to ask for assistance in a proposed official presentation of two of these pigeons in your area. The Oak Park Zoo, in Montgomery, Alabama, is to receive the hero pigeons, "Caesar" and "Flipper", with "Caesar" ranking as one of the three top birds still alive.

A flight by our Army Aviation Section is to deliver these two pigeons at Montgomery at noon on Saturday, 27 April, with the Oak Park Zoo officials to set up an official presentation within the next week or so.

This is the eighth and final delivery of these hero pigeons. In previous instances, Army representatives in respective areas had assisted in making the official presentation of the birds to the zoos.

It would be appreciated if your office could arrange to designate a member of your Command to coordinate with the Oak Park Zoo in whatever ceremony they plan shortly. Our contact with the Oak Park Zoo is: Mr. T. A. Belser, Superintendent, Park and Recreation Department, Oak Park Zoo, Montgomery, Alabama. If you care to call him on receipt of this letter, his telephone number is: Amherst 3-1081.

Thank you in advance for the favorable attention I am sure you will give this matter.

Sincerely yours,

J. P. HOFFMAN
Information Officer

SIGFM/IN 311.9

MEMORANDUM TO LIEUTENANT CORLEY

Re: Care of Pigeons to Montgomery, Alabama

1. Water pigeons at destination of flight Friday, 26 April. Water can be poured through the top of the box between the slats. In this connection, water can be placed in a bottle or small cup and poured directly into the water container in the pigeon box. Fill water container about one-half full. The pigeons should be watered again on your arrival at Montgomery.
2. Adequate feed has been placed in the crate. Therefore, it will not be necessary that the pigeons be fed until your arrival at Montgomery. A small bag of feed has been supplied in order that the pigeons will have feed over the weekend after your arrival.
3. The pigeons can be left in the plane Friday night during your stopover. Please leave one window open Friday night for ventilation. No other care will be necessary. Any remaining feed can be turned over to the receiver of the pigeons for their use over the weekend.

#

Otto Meyer

MONTGOMERY AIA

1

① Caesar
② Flipper

MEMO TO: Lt. William L. Corley, Pilot, Army Avn Sect, Ft Mon.

SUBJECT: Flight leaving Ft Mon, 0900, Fri, April 26, for Montgomery, Ala., (ETA Saturday Noon, April 27) for delivery of World War II hero pigeons, "Caesar" & "Flipper".

1. Arrangements have been made by PIO, Ft Mon, and Oak Park Zoo at Montgomery, Ala, for latter to have representative to meet plane Saturday noon (April 27) at Dannelly Field, Montgomery, Ala.
2. On landing at airport check for a Mr. Matthew Wendling, Oak Park Zoo Director, or Mr. T. A. Belser, Superintendent of Park & Recreation Dept, Oak Park Zoo. Also there is a possibility that a Dr. Hinton Waters of the Montgomery Pigeon Racing Club will be at the airport.
3. In reporting to any of the above mentioned, the two hero pigeons can be turned over, and the enclosed shipping documents signed. Please bring back 3 copies.
4. Also, turn over to the Zoo officials the two framed citations which are wrapped in brown paper, plus the envelope addressed to Mr. Belser.
5. The Oak Park Zoo office has your name as pilot of plane and ETA.
6. Please ~~follow~~ follow enclosed instructions on feed and water for pigeons.
7. In ~~any~~ event flight is delayed or you encounter difficulty in making contact at airport, these are the phone numbers

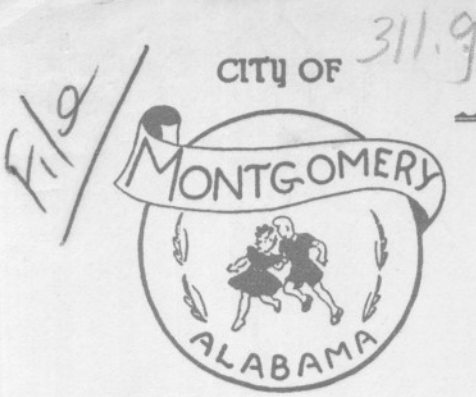
Mrs. Gayden, Secretary to Supt of Parks & Rec
Amherst 2-1960

Mr. Matthey Wendling, Zoo Director
Amherst 2-4607

Mr. T. A. Belser, Park & Rec Supt
Amherst 3-3492

8. The ~~tax~~ telephone number of the Oak Park Zoo is Amherst 3-1081. However, this number is not ~~ix~~ in service on Saturday.

9. Recommend PIO be informed of any changes ~~ix~~ or delays in above scheduled flight. Tel. extensions are 21612 or 22609. Contact Dietrich or Hoffman.



PARKS
AND
RECREATION

May 28, 1957

Major General Victor A. Conrad,
Commanding Officer, Signal Center
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

Dear General:

Enclosed you will find clippings concerning "Caesar" and "Flipper" which appeared in our local papers. I thought you might be interested in the manner in which they were received locally.

We forwarded to you recently a roll of Television film which was shown on one of our local TV stations, which I trust you have received by now.

Yours very truly,

T. A. Belser

T. A. Belser, Superintendent
Parks and Recreation

TAB:g
Enc.

for carrying a message on the fall of Gafsa in Tunisia and for flying an urgent message to Gen. George Patton, completing his 90-mile mission in 100 minutes. Apex flew more than 20 missions in the India-Burma theater.

FOR OAK PARK ZOO

Another pair of war heroes, Caesar and Flipper, will find homes in the Oak Park Zoo in Montgomery, Ala. Caesar is officially credited with 44 combat flights in North Africa, one of them a 300-mile journey. Flipper is a combat veteran of 20 missions in Europe.

The Dayton Museum of Natural History will be home for Lady Karen and Special Delivery. Lady Karen flew 31 missions and Special Delivery flew more than 20 missions. Both birds served in Italy.

The Cleveland Zoological Gardens will receive Pro Patria and Crossed Flags, with 35 and 20 combat flights respectively in the European theater.

The Woodland Park Zoological Garden in Seattle will be the new home for Geronimo and Eureka. Both of these pigeons flew in Europe, recording 30 and 20 missions respectively.

Scoop, with a record of many war missions in Algiers, is going to the Riverside Park Zoo in Scottsbluff, Neb.

The National Zoological Garden Park in Washington, D. C. will house Anzio Boy and Global Girl. The former completed 33 missions in Italy and the latter delivered 23 messages over far-flung areas in the Mediterranean theater.

Army Retires Pigeon Corps; Pair Due Here

APR 7 1957

WASHINGTON, April 6 (AP)—The Army today announced the honored retirement of the last 15 pigeon heroes of the original flock of 40,000 that carried thousands of messages and saved hundreds of lives in World War II.

Special presentation ceremonies have been planned on dates to be announced later when the war birds are delivered to their new homes in Cleveland and Dayton, Ohio; Baltimore, Md.; Detroit, Mich.; Seattle, Wash.; Montgomery, Ala.; Scottsbluff, Neb.; and Washington, D. C.

Last year the Army announced that its pigeons, for all of their contribution in past wars, could no longer keep up with the speed and accuracy of modern electronic communication. The 1,000 pigeons remaining in the Army's flock, housed at Ft. Monmouth, N. J., were sold to fanciers at a public sale in March. But the Army held back its leading pigeon heroes in order to find homes for them in public zoos.

OFF TO DETROIT

GI Joe, the famous pigeon who saved the lives of a British brigade during World War II, will go to the Detroit Zoo along with C. O. D.

GI Joe flew 20 miles in as many minutes carrying an order to cancel the scheduled bombing of Colvi Vecchia, Italy, when it was learned that more than 1,000 British soldiers had entered the city ahead of time.

C.O.D. flew 20 combat missions in the Mediterranean theater.

The Baltimore Zoo will receive Yank and Apex. Yank is renowned

War Hero Pigeons Honored, Received At Oak Park Zoo

By NELSON COLE

Two war carrier pigeons were duly received, honored and presented to the city's Oak Park zoo yesterday afternoon during ceremonies at the Oak Park recreation building.

If pigeons coo when happy, then Caesar and Flipper are more than delighted with their new roost—for they punctuated the ceremonies several times with their murmuring calls.

Presenting the birds to the city was Capt. Thomas Y. Herrigan, Signal Corps Test Unit officer of Ft. Rucker.

He spoke for the carrier pigeon branch of the corps at Ft. Monmouth, N. J., telling of the service's retirement plan and the birds' war records.

COMFORT ASSURED

Mayor W. A. Gayle accepted the pair for the city and said the Army could be "assured that we will treat these two with distinction and care for their comfort and well being.

"With no exception, I feel every Montgomerian, either young or old, will come to love and cherish these heroes," Gayle said.

Caesar is a blue check splash male credited with a total of 44 combat missions in North Africa during World War II. In addition, he completed a 300-mile flight, crossing the Mediterranean, to deliver an important message to American troops in Tunisia.

Flipper, a blue splash female, is credited with more than 20 combat flights "often having to fly through rain, sleet and snow."

Others participating in the cere-

monies attended by some 100 persons, included Father Malcolm J. Rafferty, rector of St. Andrews Catholic Church; Dr. H. W. Waters, president of Montgomery Blue and Gray Racing Society, and Ben Wilbanks, vice president of Montgomery Chamber of Commerce.

T. A. Belser, head of city parks, was master of ceremonies.

Two War Heroes To Roost In Honor At Montgomery Zoo

APR 2 1957
BY NELSON COLE

Two renowned World War II heroes soon will make Montgomery their permanent roost.

Thanks to the Army Signal Corps, two combat carrier pigeons with "distinguished war records" are being given to Oak Park Zoo. They will be caged here in positions of honor according to Mayor W. A. Gayle.

Efforts to obtain the pigeons began last December when the Army announced it planned to retire 18 such carrier pigeons.

At that time the Montgomery City Commission, the Chamber of Commerce and other groups asked the Army to place several of the

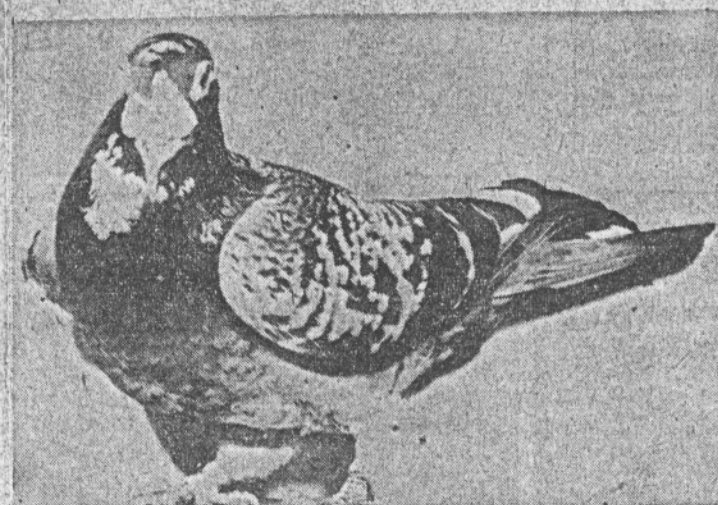
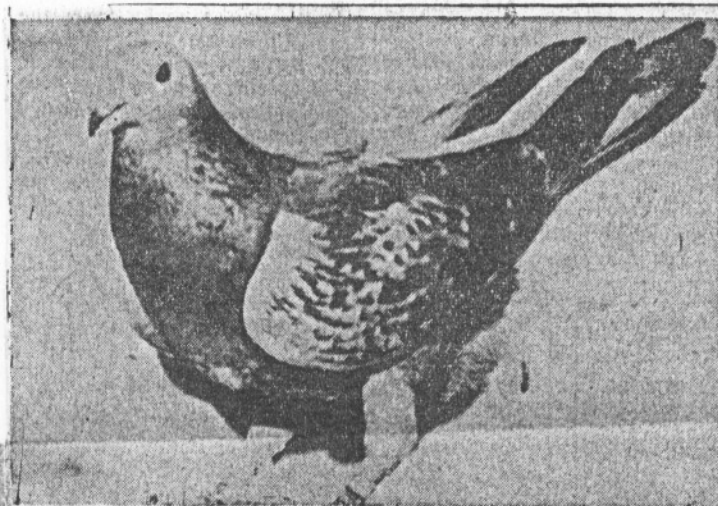
birds here.

Yesterday word came from Fort Monmouth, N.J., that "Caesar" and "Flipper" would be assigned to Montgomery.

Caesar, a blue check splash male, is credited with 44 combat missions in North Africa during World War II.

In addition, Army authorities said he completed a 300-mile flight, crossing the Mediterranean, to deliver an important message to American troops in Tunisia.

Flipper, a blue check female, delivered more than 20 combat messages in Europe. Officers said "she defied shellfire, high winds, even snow, to get urgent messages through to headquarters."



PIGEON HEROES WILL RETIRE HERE SOON
'Flipper' (Top) And 'Caesar' Coming To Oak Park

WAR PIGEONS REACH CITY

Two World War II heroes, Casear and Flipper, came to Montgomery yesterday to make Oak Park their permanent roost starting today at 3 p.m.

Caesar, a check splash male carrier pigeon is credited with 44 combat missions in North Africa. His female counterpart, Flipper, has some 20 wartime missions to

her credit.

A number of city officials will be on hand at Oak Park this afternoon to take part in welcoming ceremonies for the two war heroes.

The pair will be officially installed by Mayor W. A. Gayle who will receive the birds from Capt. Thomas Y. Herrigan, Signal Corps test unit officer of Ft. Rucker.

Caesar and Flipper are among many carrier pigeons who are retiring from active duty in the Army Signal Corps and being presented to zoos throughout the nation.

THE War Heroes Fly In Today APR 30 1957 At Local Zoo

By NELSON COLE

Caesar and Flipper, two heroes of World War II, flew into Montgomery yesterday and will make this their permanent roost starting at 3 p.m. today.

On hand at Oak Park welcoming ceremonies this afternoon will be a number of city officials who have guaranteed the two pigeons will lead an idyllic existence in a free cage with free bird seed.

Caesar is a check splash male carrier pigeon credited with 44 combat missions in North Africa. Flipper, female counterpart of Caesar, has some 20 wartime missions to her credit.

The pair will be officially installed by Mayor W. A. Gayle who will receive the birds from Capt. Thomas Y. Herrigan, Signal Corps test unit officer of Ft. Rucker.

The birds are among those now retiring from active duty in the Army Signal Corps and being presented to zoos throughout the nation.

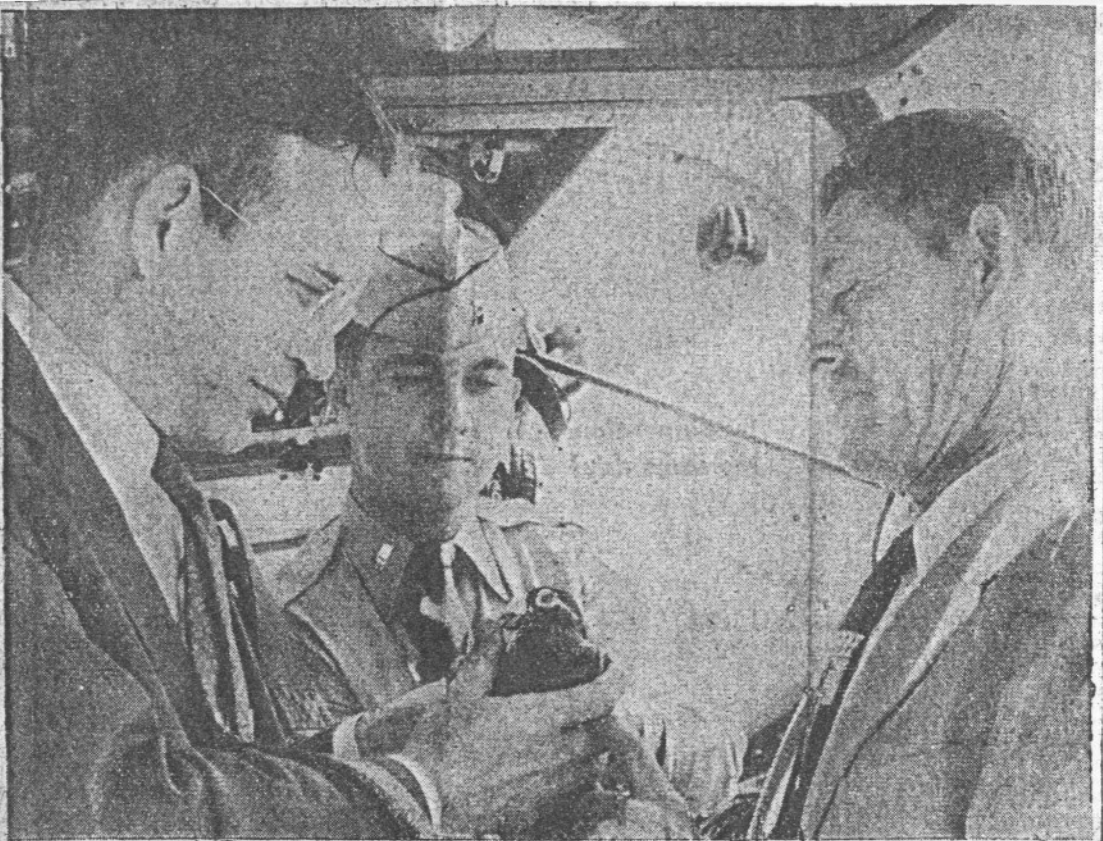
The pair arrived here yesterday at Dannelly Field in a plane piloted by 1st Lt. W. L. Corley of Ft. Monmouth, N.J. Ft. Monmouth was their home base, in the famed "Churchill Loft" until they received their retirement assignment.

HEAD OF ZOO

T. A. Belser, head of the local zoo, said special cages are being prepared for the two. The Blue and Gray Racing Society, whose president is Dr. H. W. Waters, will donate special plaques telling of the birds' records.

Several months ago when the Army first announced its carrier pigeon corps disbandment, several groups here, including the Racing Society, the Chamber of Commerce and City Commission, requested that the birds be assigned here.

In addition to his record number of war flights, Caesar is credited by the Army with a 300-mile flight, crossing the Mediterranean, to deliver an "important message to American troops in Tunisia."



WAR HEROES LAND HERE

Montgomery's Oak Park zoo will officially become the home of "Caesar" (shown above) and "Flipper," his female counterpart, at a ceremony in the park today at 3 p.m. The World War II carrier pigeons, boasting a total of more than 60 missions, arrived yesterday. Left to right are Dr. H. W. Waters, local pigeon racing society president; Lt. W. L. Corley of Fort Monmouth, N.J., and M. J. Wendling, representing the local zoo.